

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 278

By Windle

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Head Coach Lamar Rogers and the Clarkrange High School girls' basketball team upon winning the 2008-2009 TSSAA Class A State Championship.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful high school athletic teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, the Clarkrange High School girls' basketball team is one such estimable team that recently won the 2009 TSSAA Class A Girls Basketball State Tournament, held at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro; and

WHEREAS, led by Head Coach Lamar Rogers, the Clarkrange High School Lady Buffaloes basketball team achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2008-2009 season, boasting an undefeated season of thirty-nine wins and no losses; and

WHEREAS, after winning at the sub-state level to advance to the State Tournament in Murfreesboro, the Lady Buffaloes demolished Forrest High School in the first round by a score of 56-39 and defeated Oliver Springs 53-26 in the semi-finals, winning each of their tournament games and securing their place in the Class A State Championship final against Jackson County's Madison Academic; and

WHEREAS, determined to bring home the title, the Lady Buffaloes prevailed over Madison decisively, winning 57-31. State Tournament Most Valuable Player Tasha Phillips scored fifteen points and grabbed twelve rebounds to help the team claim its first ever state title; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Buffaloes hit their stride at the start of the game, scoring the first thirteen points and leading by the score of 26-10 at halftime; the Lady Buffaloes shot 57.1

percent from the field, sank nineteen of twenty-three free throws, and out-rebounded Madison by 23-14; and

WHEREAS, the team looked to Ms. Phillips, a six-foot senior, who was unstoppable in the third quarter, hitting two layups and a free throw and setting up the team for a clear victory; and

WHEREAS, Molly Heady scored sixteen points and Kelli Reed scored twelve, capping the first perfect season in Tennessee girls basketball since Bradford High School went 34-0 in 2000; and

WHEREAS, marking the eighth championship in the program's history, the Clarkrange High School Lady Buffaloes earned the first ever Clarkrange State Championship accompanied by an undefeated record; and

WHEREAS, Clarkrange won their three games during the season by an average of 23.3 points; the Lady Buffaloes are one of only twenty-five undefeated girls teams in State history and tied three others with a State-best thirty-nine season victories; and

WHEREAS, displaying great sportsmanship and outstanding character throughout the season, the members of the Clarkrange High School girls' basketball team conducted themselves in a manner appropriate to the integrity of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the dedication, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young women not only made possible a memorable and undefeated championship season, but also surely point toward their success in every future endeavor; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee takes great pride in the tremendous accomplishments of its athletic teams that have succeeded both on the court and in the classroom; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Head Coach Lamar Rogers and the Clarkrange High School girls' basketball team upon winning the 2008-2009 TSSAA Class A Girls' Basketball State Championship and wish them success in every future endeavor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.